

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 COME-00 EB-08 LAB-04 SIL-01 HEW-04
HA-05 /094 W

-----080014 201514Z /44

R 201349Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5020
INFO AMCONSUL BREMEN
AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT
AMCONSUL HAMBURG
AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMCONSUL STUTTGART
USMISSION USBERLIN
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

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USEEC ALSO FOR EMBASSY, USOECD ALSO FOR EMBASSY
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAG, GW
SUBJECT: GREEK GASTARBEITER (GUEST WORKERS) IN THE FRG

REF: (A) BONN 00509; (B) BONN 00647; (C) BONN A-09;
(D) BONN 00269

SUMMARY: THE NUMBER OF GREEK WORKERS IN THE FRG HAS DROPPED SINCE 1973. EDUCATION OF THE SECOND GENERATION CHILDREN REMAINS A PROBLEM AREA. GREECE CONTINUES TO PUSH FOR EC MEMBERSHIP AND FREE LABOR MOBILITY WHILE KEEPING A WATCHFUL EYE ON THE TURKS IN THE FRG. END SUMMARY.

1. EMBASSY LABOFF TALKED ABOUT GREEK GASTARBEITER IN THE FRG WITH GREEK LABATT GEORGES LIVANIOS. THE OVERALL GREEK POPULATION IN THE FRG, INCLUDING WORKERS AND DEPENDENTS, WAS 390,500 IN SEPTEMBER 1975. LIVANIOS STATED THAT THE NUMBER OF GREEK WORKERS IN THE FRG HAD DECLINED FROM A HIGH OF 280,000 IN 1973 TO AROUND 170,000 AT THE END OF 1976. THERE HAVE BEEN NO PROBLEMS WITH THE RETURN OF THESE 110,000 WORKERS TO GREECE SINCE MOST OF THESE PEOPLE HAVE FOUND JOBS IN GREECE. BY AND LARGE, RESIDENCE AND WORKING PERMITS FOR GREEK WORKERS IN THE FRG ARE NOT THE PROBLEM THAT THEY WERE IN PREVIOUS YEARS.

2. THE GREEK EMBASSY FOLLOWS THE TURKISH GASTARBEITER CLOSELY, AND IS PARTICULARLY CONCERNED WITH ANY RIGHTS GRANTED TO THESE TURKS. THE EMBASSY'S MAJOR CONCERN REMAINS THE NEGOTIATIONS FOR EC MEMBERSHIP (REF D). THE GREEKS WANT FULL LABOR MOBILITY BY THE END OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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1986. THIS DEMAND IS BASED ON A 1974 AGREEMENT WITH THE FRG, BUT, ACCORDING TO LIVANIOS, ALL OF THIS WILL OCCUR WITHIN THE "BROADER POLITICAL DECISION" REQUIRED FOR EC EXPANSION. HE DID NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT FULL LABOR MOBILITY WOULD PROBABLY ATTRACT GREEK PROFESSIONALS AND SKILLED WORKERS TO THE FRG, AND THAT THIS COULD CAUSE FUTURE DIFFICULTIES AND SECTORAL LABOR SHORTAGES WITHIN GREECE ITSELF.

3. LIVANIOS'S GREATEST CONCERN IS THE EDUCATION OF THE 70,000 GREEK CHILDREN IN THE FRG. THE CHILDREN HAVE A HIGH FAILURE RATE IN SCHOOL - OVER 60 PERCENT

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R 201349Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5021
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DO NOT RECEIVE THE SCHOOL CERTIFICATE FROM THE BASIC
SCHOOL (PARA 6, REF A). WITHOUT THE SCHOMY CERTIFI-
CATE THESE "CHILDREN" ARE INCREASINGLY ALIENATED AND
ARE A SOCIAL FRINGE GROUP WITH LIMITED JOB AND TRAINING
OPPORTUNITIES. LIVANIOS FEELS IT IS TIME FOR THE
FRG TO STOP EXPERIMENTING AND TO IMPLEMENT EFFECTIVE

PROGRAMS FOR THESE CHILDREN.

4. THE GREEK GASTARBEITER IN THE FRG ARE SPLINTERED WHILE THE TURKISH GASTARBEITER (IN THE GREEK VIEW) ARE VERY TIGHTLY ORGANIZED. THE GERMAN UNIONS HAVE BEEN GLAD TO HAVE THE GASTARBEITER AS DUES PAYING MEMBERS WHO DID NOT FORM "NATIONAL" UNIONS ALTHOUGH THE GREEKS ARE DISAPPOINTED WITH THE SMALL NUMBER OF FOREIGNERS IN THE UNION HEADQUARTERS STAFFS. LIVANIOS COMMENTED THAT THE FRG HAD SHREWDLY DIVERSIFIED ITS SOURCES OF FOREIGN LABOR WHICH REDUCED THE AMOUNT OF POLITICAL PRESSURE THAT ANY ONE COUNTRY SUPPLY-ING LABOR COULD EXERT ON THE FRG. LIVANIOS FELT THAT THESE "NATIONAL GROUPS" MIGHT PLAY AN INFLUENTIAL ROLE IN THE FRG IN THE FUTURE. HE NOTED THAT WHILE THE TURKS ARE THE LARGEST NUMBER OF GASTARBEITER IN THE FRG, OTHER GREEK COMMUNITIES HAD BEEN INFLUENTIAL IN OTHER NATIONS ON SPECIFIC ISSUES (I.E., GREEK-AMERICANS ON THE CYPRUS ISSUE) AND THIS COULD HAPPEN HERE IN THE FUTURE.

5. EMBASSY COMMENT: WHILE LIVANIOS TENDED TO SEE THINGS IN TERMS OF THE GREEK-TURKISH RIVALRY, HIS BASIC POINTS ABOUT THE CURRENT CONDITIONS OF THE GAST-ARBEITER PARALLEL THE STATEMENTS MADE BY OTHERS (REFS). IN SPITE OF HIS VIEWS THAT THE FRG HAS NOTHING TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FEAR FROM FREE LABOR MOBILITY BY GREEKS IN AN EXPANDED EC, THIS WILL CONTINUE TO BE A MAJOR STICKING POINT IN GREEK-EC NEGOTIATIONS. AN AREA THAT BEARS WATCHING, HOWEVER, IS THE MIGRATION OF PROFESSIONALS AND SKILLED WORKERS IN CERTAIN SECTORS FROM THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION TO NORTHERN EUROPE.
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